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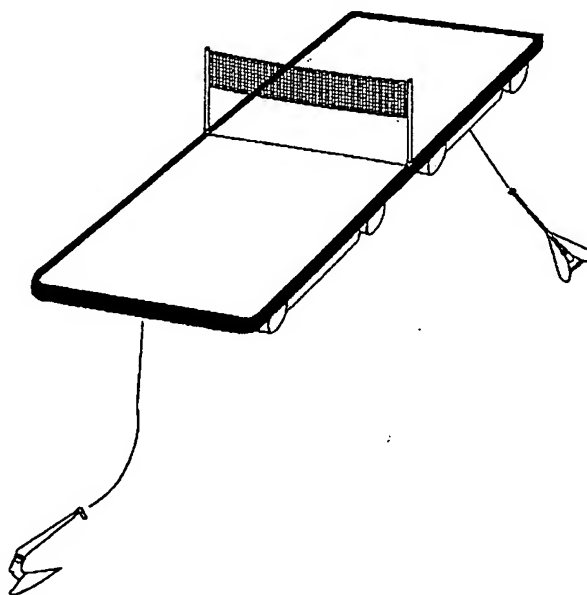
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(54) Title: **FLOATING PLATFORM FOR BALL GAMES**



(57) Abstract: It is a rectangular platform that, through floating cylindrical pads, is equipped to be installed in the sea or on a watery surface such as a swimming pool and deliberately unstable, used for the game of volleyball and/or basketball in order to produce a springy effect each time the volleyball players or other athletes jump. Currently, in fact, as far is known, there is no floating platform, board or support suitable for the games of volleyball or basketball or less specifically with the measurements of length and width of the said platform.

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*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

**DESCRIPTION****FLOATING PLATFORM FOR BALL GAMES**

The patent of invention consists of a dais or rectangular platform floating on the water of the sea, lake or swimming pool used specifically for the game of volleyball or basketball. It is made up of four modules, of which each pair forms the field for each of the two teams. Each one of them measures 5.5m x 2.35m., and is laminated in glass fibre or resin or other material suitable for the purpose, held by cylindrical supports in expanded polyurethane or expanded PVC or other suitable material with a fender in rubber or similar, while the material covering the tread is of Neoprene or other appropriate material. The joining elements of the four modules are in Aisi 316 steel and Derlin, while the materials of the support poles of the central net are in aluminium and covered in rubber or other suitable materials. The net is in polyester and Terylene or other suitable materials. The material that causes the springiness and which allows the whole structure to float on the water is made up of cylinders in Neoprene or other suitable material. These cylinders that cause the springy effect are placed between the tread surface and the bottom of the hull. The whole is anchored using two anchors or dead buoys.

The figure numbered 1 of 8 shows the overall view of the rectangular platform axonometrically. It is as well to note the positions of the net and the limits of the field of play. Furthermore, the two anchors should be noted, they are used to avoid movement of the platform caused by the motion of the waves. In the figure numbered 2 of 8, above, there is the view from below of the rectangular platform. This view emphasises well all the elements that form the whole of those parts used for the support of the entire platform. Above all, the four items in a semi-

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cylindrical shape can be seen, each on one of the four modules that form the platform. They are placed on the side edges of the above-mentioned modules and are the furthest out floats of the entire structure. You can also see the eight semi-spheres that, in pairs, are placed next to the side edges of the above-mentioned semi-cylinders. They make the entire structure more stable, not allowing the drifting of the platform. There are also another eight semi-cylinders of about half the size of the above-mentioned semi-cylinders. They are placed in pairs on the four modules making up the platform. They are set in pairs in the single structure of the platform, they form, for each pair, a unique semi-cylinder of a size roughly equal to those of the four semi-cylinders described above. There are then another eight semi-spheres that are placed in pairs on each module on the innermost part of the structure, which have the function of a simple floating support for the innermost part of the platform. In the centre of each pair of modules that form a field, there are two quarter floating spheres, placed on the inside edge of each module. In pairs, they make up a further floating semi-sphere placed at the centre of each playing field. As joints for the four modules in aisi 361 steel and Derlin, they guarantee the unity of the structure, in fact, joining firmly the four modules in such a way as to create a single rigid and floating structure. There are six elements of this type, of which two pairs are used to hold the two modules forming the two fields of play together, while the third pair serve to hold the two fields of play together as shown in figure 2 of 8.

In the figure at the centre of the page, show a view from above the platform. Note the dotted surface that indicates the covering of the tread, in Neoprene, the side lines of the two fields of play, the two central lines that divide the entire surface

into four sections and the two transverse lines that mark the limits of the smash area.

In the figure below of 2 of 8, you can see the side view of the platform that highlights the side fender made of rubber, the side view of the above-mentioned semi-cylinders and the side scion of the net that divides the two fields as well as the anchor cables with their respective anchors.

Figure 3 of 8 shows, above, the four modules separated, to highlight the method of joining them, while in the centre the connection planes are highlighted. Below, is the side view of the two fields separated.

Figure 4 of 8 shows the sections of each module seen from inside the hull. Note the three cylindrical connectors, black in figure that guarantee a certain flexibility of the structure.

The technical description relating to the game of wolleyball is reported schematically as follows:

“FLOATING VOLLEY” is a game played on a floating platform deliberately unstable in order to produce a “jumping” effect each time the players jump.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS OF THE PLATFORM

Lenght	11.00 m
Width	4.70 m
Number of modules	4
Length of module	5.50 m
Width of module	2.35 m
Total volume	30 m <sup>3</sup>
Weight	115 kg
Platform material	Fibre glass laminate/ Polyester fibre resin
Reserve floating material	Expanded polyurethane and Expanded PVC
Edge covering material	Rubber
Covering material for tread	Neoprene
Joining materials	aisi 316 steel and Derlin
Material for the posts	aluminium and rubber
Material for the net	Polyester-Terylene and Plexiglas
Material to cause “jumping”	Neoprene cylinders
Position of the “jumping” cylinders	between the tread and the hull
Anchorage	2 straight anchors or dead buoys

This platform, as said in the title of the

patent, can also be used for the game of basketball using two end baskets, instead of the net, installed on steel poles that are in their turn firmly anchored under the platform. Figure 5 of 8, in fact, shows the axonometric view of the platform equipped with these baskets. Figure 6 of 8, above, shows the view of the platform from below, identical to that shown in figure 2 of 8. In the centre is the view from above that highlights the different types of field lines, as well as the baskets seen

from above. Below is the side view identical to that in figure 6 of 8 but with the two end baskets instead of the central net.

Figure 7 of 8 is identical to that of figure 3 of 8 except for the having the two baskets instead of the central net in the side view.

Figure 8 of 8 is identical to figure 4 of 8 and has been included for completeness with regard to the game of basketball.

The technical description relating to the game of basketball is reported schematically as follows:

“FLOATING BASKET” is a game played on a floating platform deliberately unstable in order to produce a “jumping” effect each time the players jump.

#### TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS OF THE PLATFORM

Length	11.00 m
Width	4.70 m
Number of modules	4
Length of module	5.50 m
Width of module	2.35 m
Total volume	30 m <sup>3</sup>
Weight	115 kg
Platform material	Fibre glass laminate/ Polyester fibre resin
Reserve floating material	Expanded polyurethane and Expanded PVC
Edge covering material	Rubber
Covering material for tread	Neoprene
Joining materials	aisi 316 steel and Derlin
Material for the posts	aluminium and rubber
Material for the basket	Polyester-Terylene and Plexiglas
Material to cause “jumping”	Neoprene cylinders
Position of the “jumping” cylinders	between the tread and the hull
Anchorage	2 straight anchors or dead buoys

### CLAIMS

1. In virtue of the special features of the platform, the originality of the above-mentioned platform is claimed, in that a surface of its type has never been used for the games of volleyball or basketball, that floats on water in a deliberately unstable manner;
2. The above claim being understood, we claim the uniqueness of the planning of the bottom of the platform as examined in the above-mentioned description;
3. The above two claims being understood, we claim the uniqueness of the system for joining the four modules making up the platform by way of steel bars;
4. The above three claims being understood, we claim the rectangular outline of the platform in its dimensions, 11m x 4.7m;
5. The above four claims being understood, we claim the anchorage at the two ends of the platform as shown in figure 1 of 8;
6. The above five claims being understood, we claim all the technical specifications as well as the materials described on page five and on page 4 and page 5;
7. The above six claims being understood, we claim the possibility of constructing this platform with other types of materials of any type provided they are suitable;
8. The above seven claims being understood, we claim the affixing of the brand name of the company "Di Bonito Motorcycles" expressed by the



inscription made up of the three capital letters "DBM" one after the other and joined together, where the first letter, D, is surmounted by a lozenge in perspective;

9. The above eight claims being understood, we similarly claim for the said platform, the composition of all its parts in any suitable material whatever, in that what is intended to be protected is principally the idea of such a floating platform;
10. In conclusion, the above nine claims being understood, we claim the complete ownership of the whole platform as best demonstrated by the attached figures of designs with all their special features.

Fig. 1

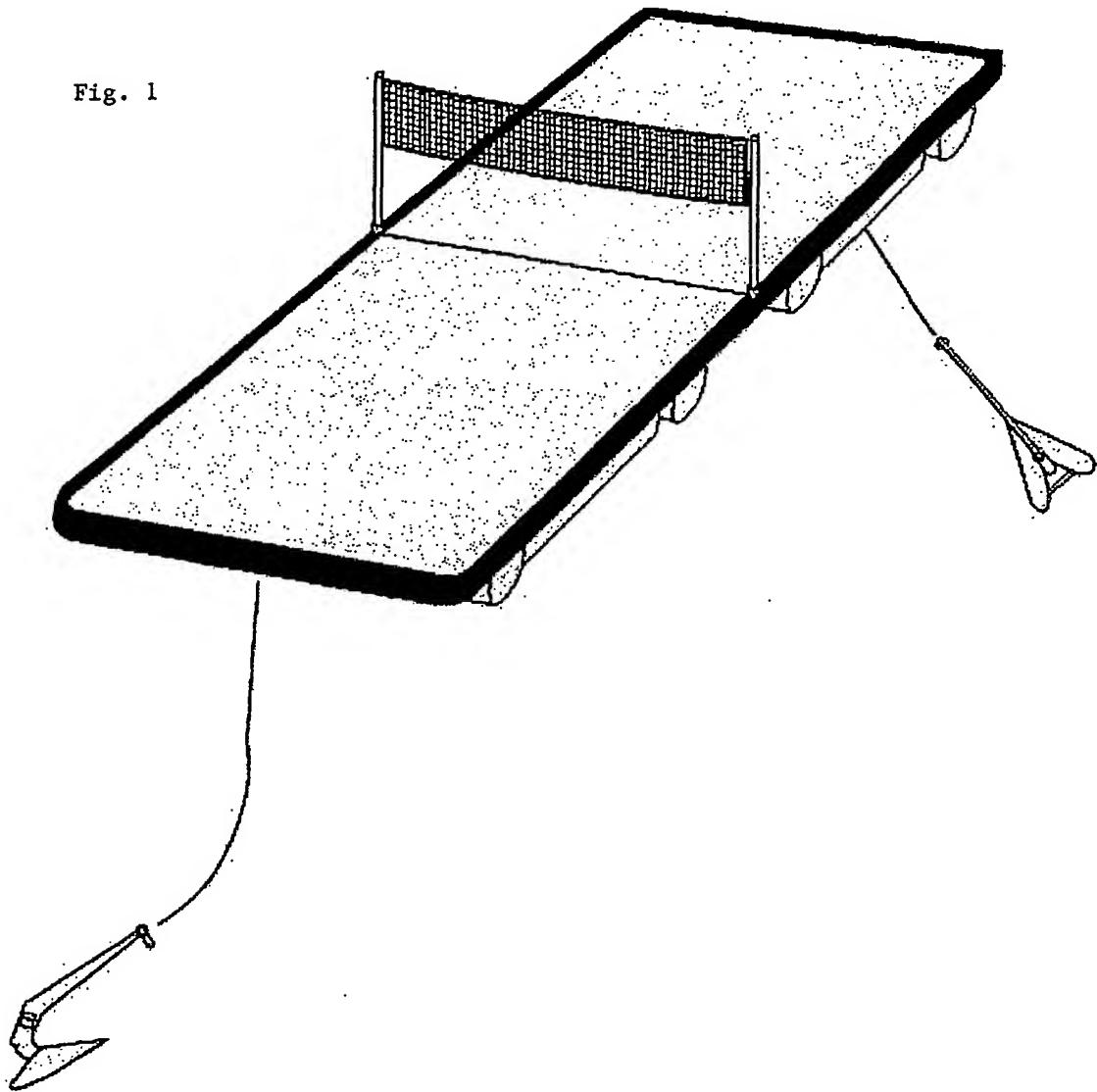
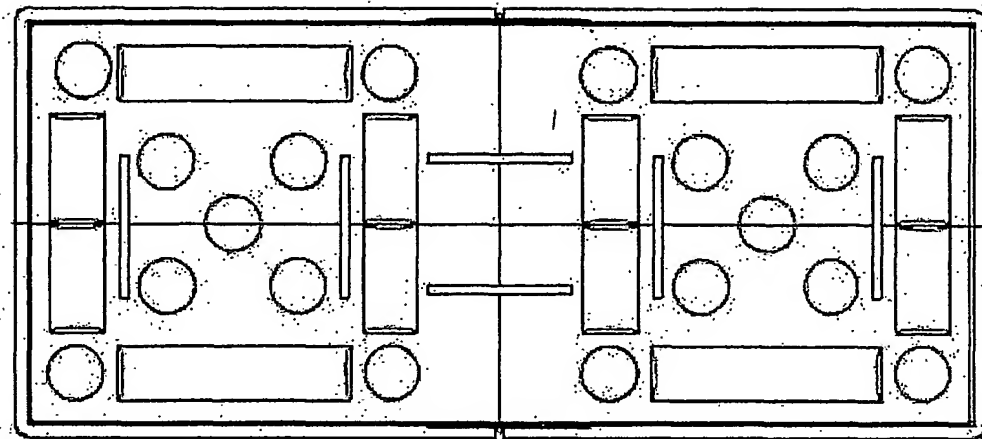
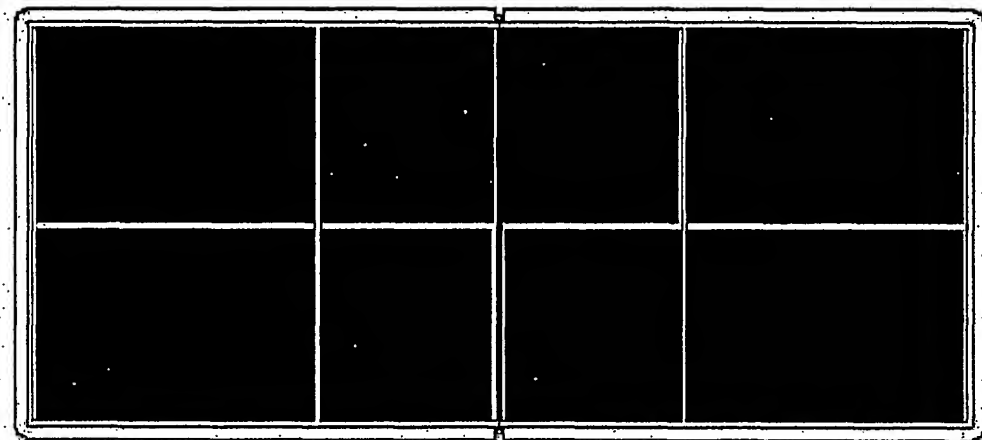


Fig. 2



view from the bottom



view from the top

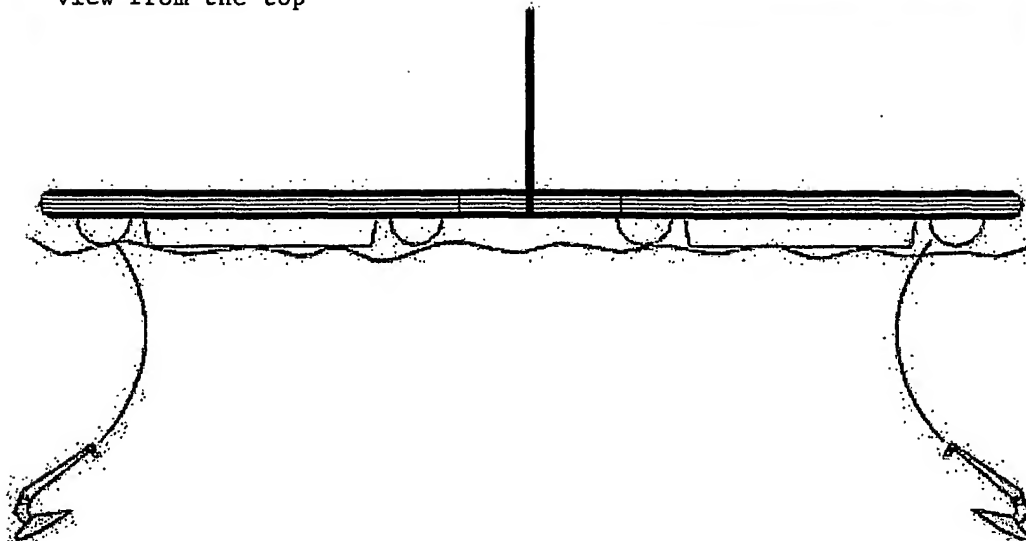


Fig. 3.

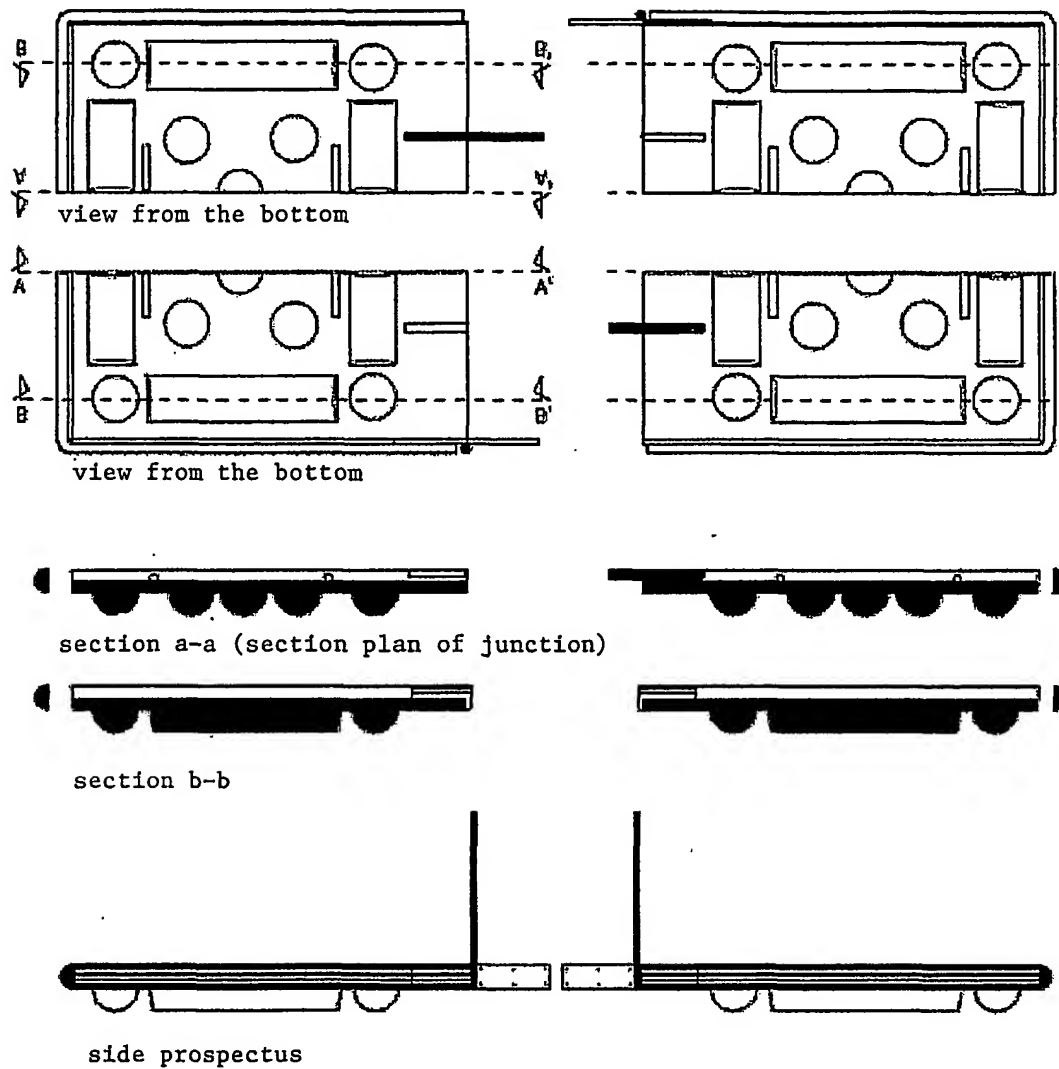
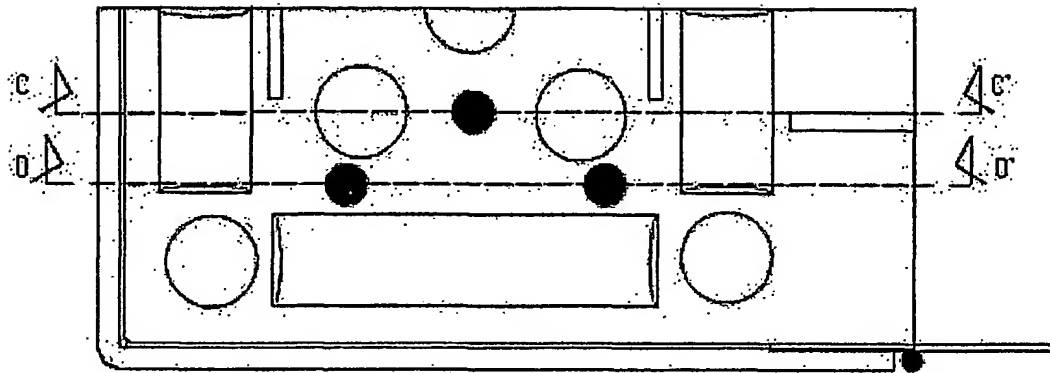


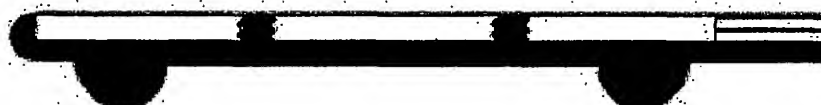
Fig. 4.



seen from inside the hull



section c-c



section d-d

Fig. 5.

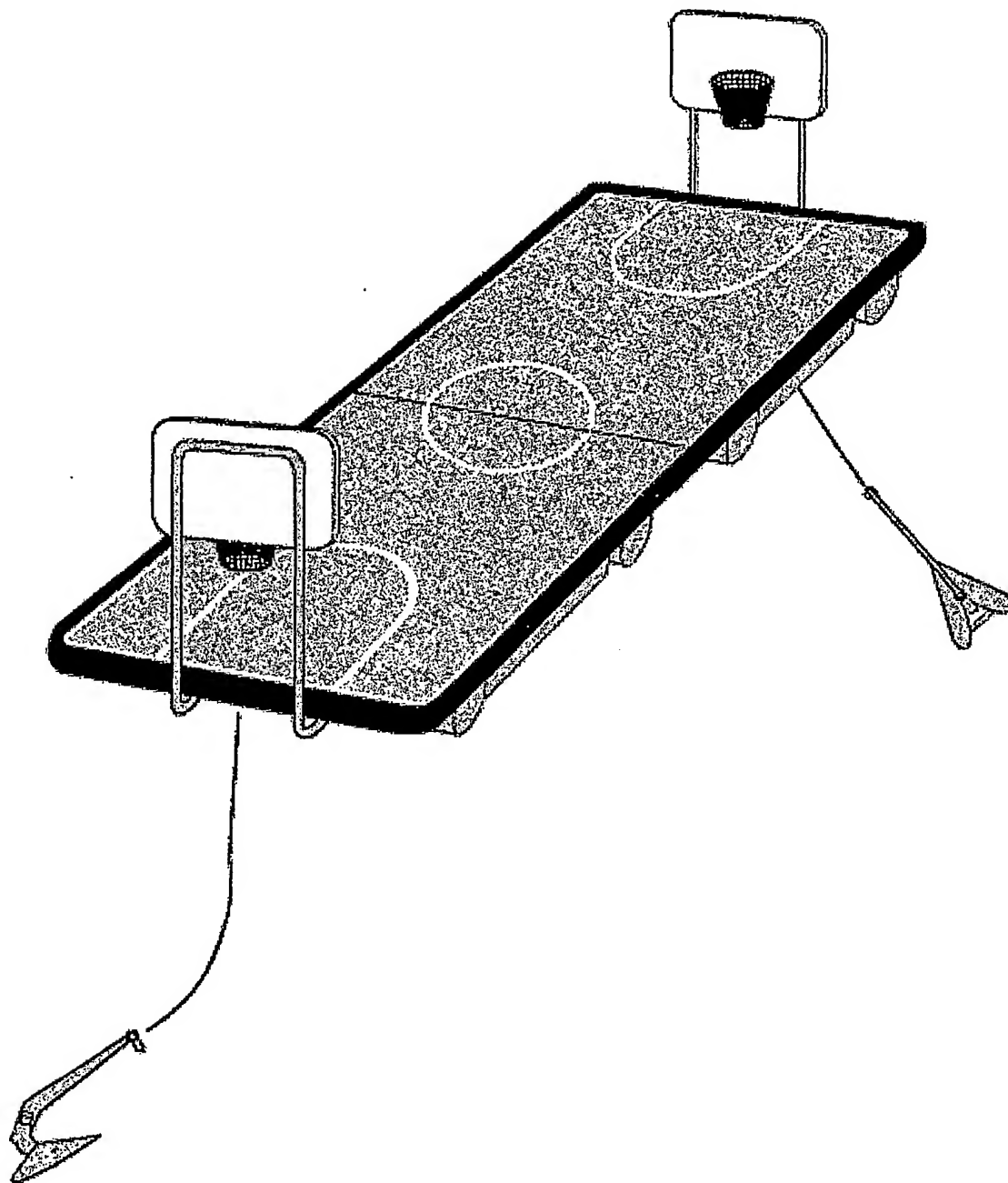


Fig. 6

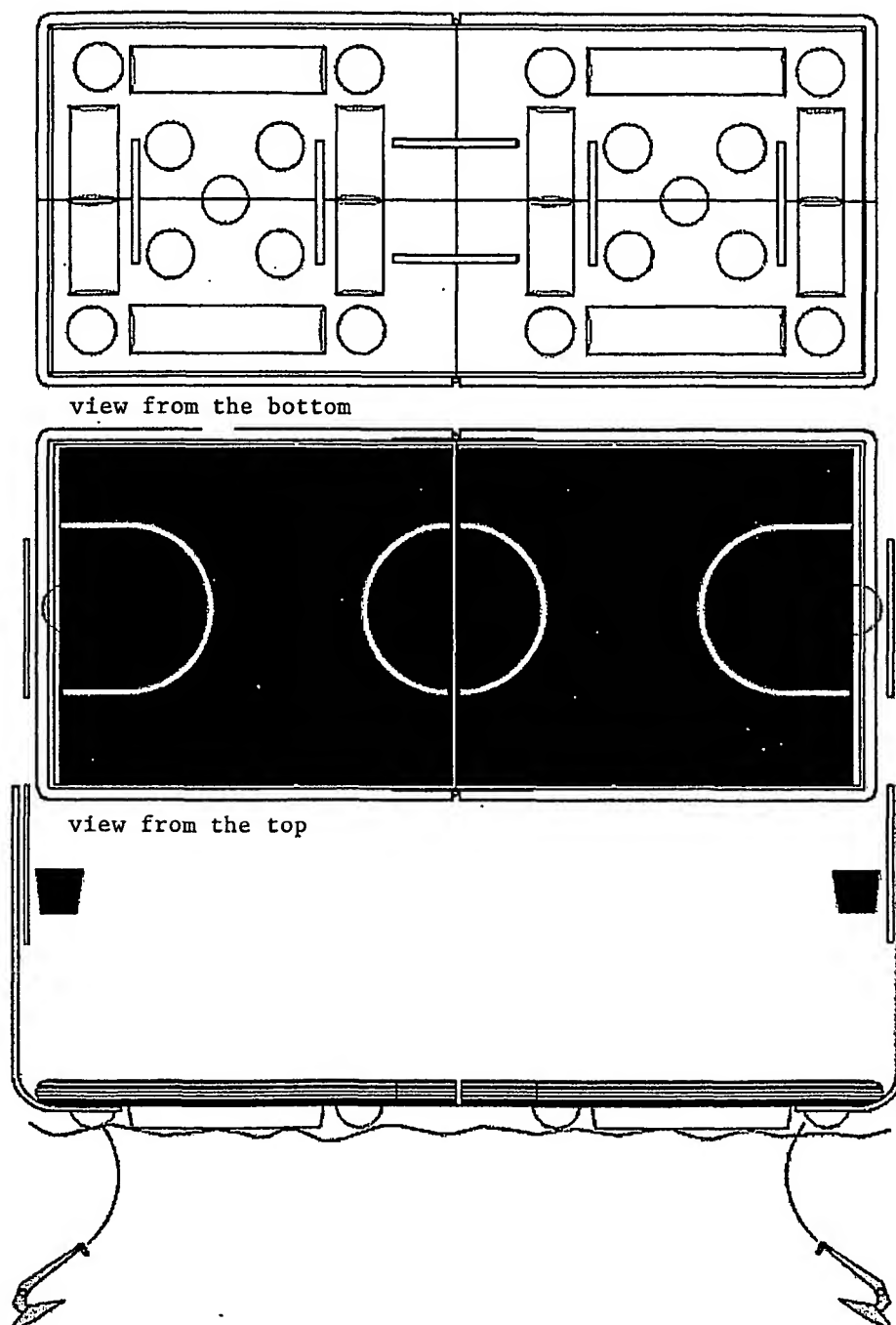


Fig. 7.

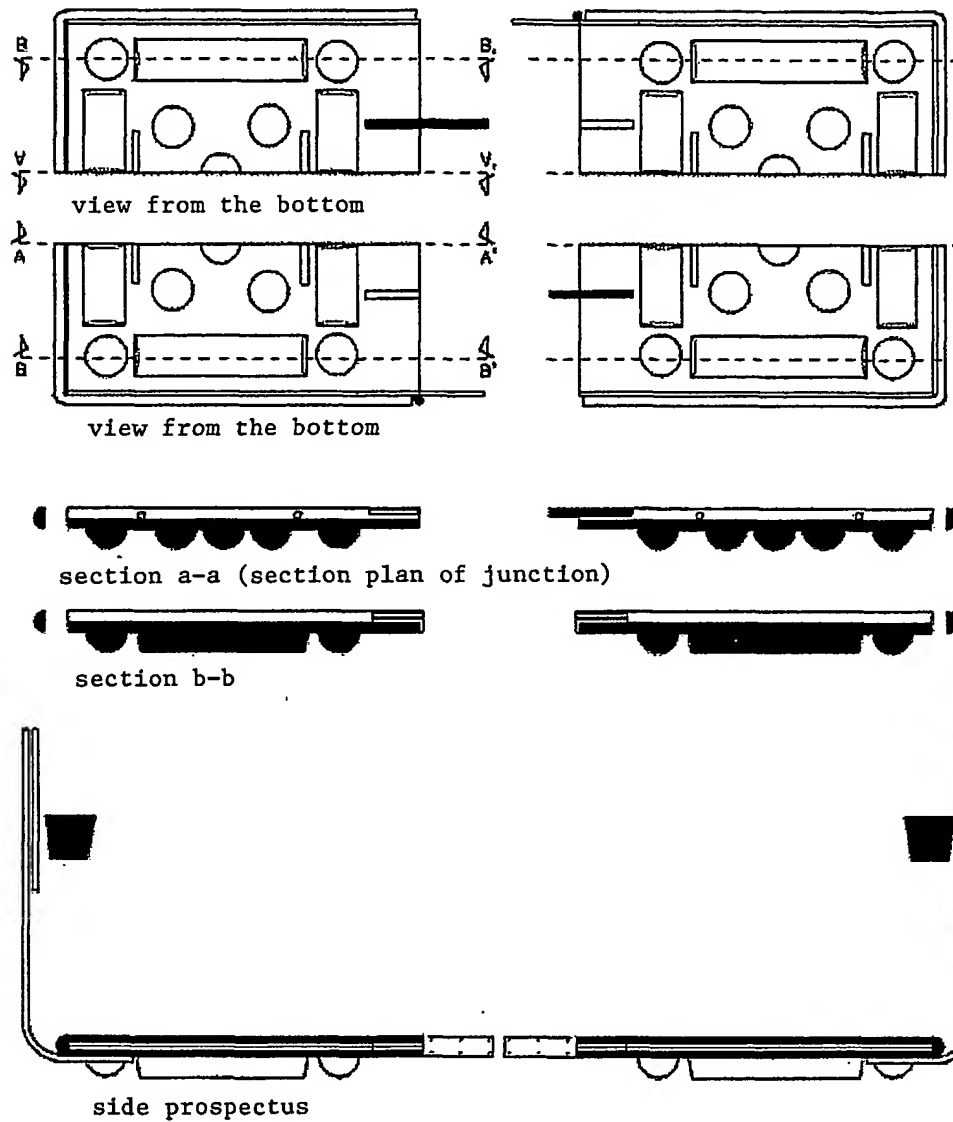
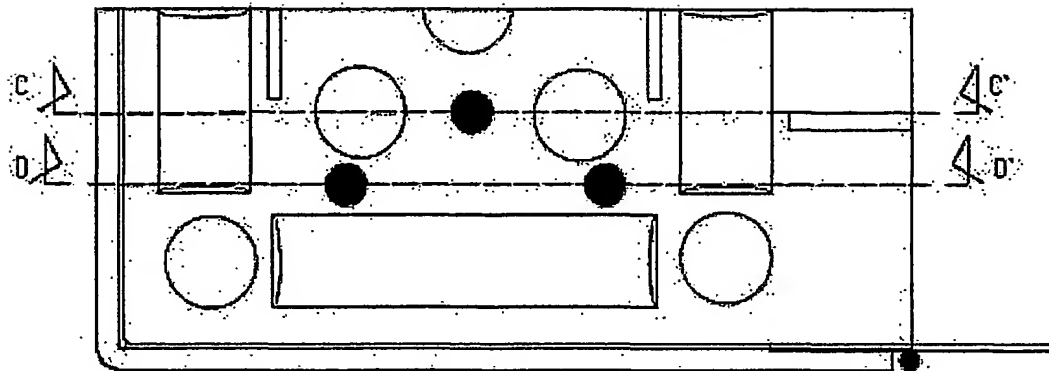




Fig. 8



seen from inside the hull



section c-c



section d-d

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No  
PCT/EP 01/00593

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC 7 B63B35/73 A63B67/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 7 B63B A63B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

WPI Data, EPO-Internal

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 2 706 630 A (CISNE) 19 April 1955 (1955-04-19) column 1; figure 1 ---	1-10
A	US 3 858 877 A (LUNDSTROM) 1 July 1975 (1975-07-01) abstract; figure 1 ---	1-10
A	FR 2 682 882 A (FENOULLIET) 30 April 1993 (1993-04-30) abstract; figure 1 ---	1-10
A	EP 0 151 681 A (MÜLLER) 21 August 1985 (1985-08-21) abstract; figure 1 ---	1-10
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

3 April 2002

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inter Application No  
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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	FR 2 740 048 A (ROBINOT) 25 April 1997 (1997-04-25) abstract; figure 15 -----	1-10

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Inter Application No  
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